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Moder	CLASSIFICATION - SECRET/NOPOLES CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY INFORMATION REPORT	REPORT CD NO.	25 <b>X</b> 1
PLACE ACQUIRED  DATE OF INFO	Order of Battle of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany (GSFG) (Situation Report No. 2/57)	DATE DISTR.	25X1
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# II. Training

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late Novem	ber 1957	

## Preliminary Note

- During the period under review, activities of GSFG units concentrated on summer and fall training which terminated in a number of maneuvers. The reorganization of Soviet army units in the GDE, which started in late April 1957, was generally completed in July 1957. However, small-scale changes may still occur.
- In spine of increased Soviet security, deceptive and camouflage measures, information obtained allows a comparatively clear picture of activities and measures of Soviet army units in the GDR.

# I. Reorganization and Rearmament

1. Information obtained on the new phase of the reorganization, which started on 21 April 1957, permits definite conclusions as so extension and results, and confirms assumptions

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# a. Changes observed with Rifle Armies

Both rifle armies were reorganized into mechanized armies. This was accomplished by the following measures:

- (1) Reorganization of 2 mechanized divisions (19th Git Mecz Dlv/Fhird Shock Army and 20th Gds Mecz Div/Eighth Gdt Army) istemak divisions. In addition to the assignment of tank units to these divisions in the spring of 1957, a number of tanks which considerably exceed the number belonging to a mechanized division have continually been observed in the areas of these divisions.
- (2) Reorganization of all motomized divisions into New-Type mechanized divisions. This measure was confirmed by repeated observation of more than 10 tanks and a large number of armored personnel carriers with previously motomized rifle regiments and of rocket lammahers in all 4 division areas (Hagenow, Boergian-Stants, Rudolstadt and Weissenfels).
- (3) The situation of army artillery and engineers, which differs from that of army artillery and engineer units of previous mechanized armies is treated in Par I 2b and 2c.

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## b. Changes observed with Machanized Armies

 Confirmed information has been received that 4 divisions changed their subordination, namely:

the 8th Gds Mecz Div from the First to the Three Gds Mecz Army; the 6th Gds Tank Div from the Third to the First Gds Mecz Army; the lat Mecz Div from the Second to the Fourth Gds Mecz Army; the 25th Tank Div from the Fourth to the Second Gds Mecz Army.

After the termination of the summer training period (return of the units from summer camps and maneuvers) it was determined that, in spite of the change of subordination, no changes had taken place with regard to the general location of the divisions.

- (2) The mechanized divisions were reorganized into New-Type mechanized divisions (only 1 tank and 1 arty regiment). For details, see Par I, 2.
- (3) No definite information has been received on the reorganization of tank divisions.

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- c. Artillery units directly subordinate to GSFG (former 17 Arty Corps) were not affected by the reorganization.
- d. Present Organization of GSFG Units

(See Annex 1)

At present, GSFG forces include  $\ell$  mechanized armics, each with 3 mechanized and 3 tank division, and 2 tank armics, each with 3 tank divisions.

In detail, these ermies include the following units:

Third Gds Meez Arry St

8th Gds Meez Div Grimms
9th Meez Div Cottbus
14th Gds Meez Div Jueterbug
7th Gds Tank Div Dessau

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Fourth Gds Meez Army 1st Meos Div Doeberitz 6th Gds Mecs Div Bernau 7th Gds Mecz Div Puerstenuelde 10th Gds Tank Div Krampmitz U/i Mecs Army 18th Mecz Div Perleberg U/i Mecs Div Schwerin (previous Third Shock Army) (previous 94th Gds Mtz Rifle Div) U/i Mecs Div Stendal (previous 207th M:2 Rifle Div) U/i Tank Div Magdeburg (previous 19th Gds Mecs Div) U/i Mecs Army 21st Gds Mecz Div Halle Ohrdruf U/i Mecz Div (previous Eighth Gds Army) (previous 39th Gds Mts Rifle Div) U/i Mecs Div Haumburg (previous 57th Gd: Mts Rifle Div) U/i Tank Div Jena (previous 20th Gd: Meez Div) U/i Tank Army 6th Gds Tank Div Wittenberg 9th Tank Div Riags. (previous First Gds Mecz Army) 11th Gds Tank Div Presden

U/1 Tank Army
(previous Second Gds Mecz Army)

9th Gds Tank Div
12th Gds Tank Div
Neuruppin
Yogelsang

1 is assumed that the First Gds Mecz Army has been reassigned its

e. It is assumed that the first Gds Mecz Army has been recisioned its previous designation First Gds Tank Army and the Second Gds Mecz Army was presumably redesignated Second Gds Tank Army. The former 19th and 20th Gds Mecz Divs, which had been reorganized into tank divisions, may have kept their old numbers because the Soviet Army so far included neither a 19th nor a 20th Gds Tank Div, while at least some of the previous motorized rifle diresions reorganized into mechanized divisions probably were given new designations. It can at least be said that divisional numbers 94 and 207 appear too high for mechanized divisions, since the latter have so far been numbered almost consecutively, and therefore, such high numbers would not agree with the numbering scheme.

Until this question can be clarified, the old designations with a supplementary "Mecz" or "Tank" in parentheses will be used.

#### 2. Unclarified Questions

After the reorganization, GSFG forces include only 2 types of divisions, namely tank divisions and mechanized divisions, with both types differing from previous tank and mechanized divisions.

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particularly from the latter. For information on the organization of the new division types with comparative data on the previous types, see Annexes 2 and 3. Available information does not yet al AM final conclusions on the post-organizational structure. A number of questions, notably with regard to organization and armament, could not yet be clarified. There is also reason to believe that not all forces and units of the same type have as yet the same organization and armament but will be standardized only in the near future, a procedure which has already previously been observed with Soviet units on similar occasions. In particular, the following questions could not yet be determined:

# a. Organization of Tank Units of

#### (1) Tank divisions:

It was observed in late April/early May 1957, that a number of tank divisions received heavy tanks and SP guns which had been turned in by mechanized divisions. This observation tends to indicate that the tank divisions were assigned additional heavy tank SP units, i.e. possibly a sagond hy tank SP regiment. This assumption is, however, contradicted by the fact that tank divisions at the same time were observed entraining heavy tanks and SP guns, which apparently were to be turned in. The number of heavy tanks and SP guns observed at posts also appears too small to indicate definitely two hy tank SP regiments par division. On the other hand, individual heavy tanks have bean observed in the areas of medium tank regiments. In no case, however, could four tank regiments be confirmed with a tank division, whereas mixed regiments were reported with several divisions (e.g. 7th Gds Tank Div. 10th Gds Tank Div. and 11th Gds Tank Div. It is therefore also possible that tank divisions are organized into 3 mixed tank regiments, each of presumably 4 battalions. The observation of an unusually high number of heavy tanks and SP guns with the 10th Gds Tank Div and the 20th Gds Mees Div (Tank) vaguely indicates that tenk divisions of mechanized armies may be equipped with a larger member of heavy tanks than tank divisions of tank armies.

#### (2) Mechanized Divisions:

Observations during the period under review confirmed that the heavy tank SP regiments of mechanized divisions have been dissolved. Information available on the previous medium tank regiments does not yet permit definite conclusions as to their new organization. The observation

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of individual heavy tanks and SP guns in the area of regiments of almost all mechanized divisions tends to indicate that a heavy tank battalion may have been added to the 3 mechan tank battalions. An assignment of heavy tanks and SP guns to medium tank battalions appears improbable. The medium tank battalion subordinate to mechanized regiments was not affected by the reorganization. Individual heavy tanks which were occasionally observed with mechanized regiments are quite definitely believed not to belong to the organizational equipment of this type of regiment.

#### b. Organization and Armament of Artillery Units

#### (1) Division Artillery

It can be assumed that all battalions of divisional artillery are organized into 3 batteries, each of 6 guns.

The observation that the artillery of tank divisions has been organized into a regiment sometime earlier and that the mortar battalion was dissolved, was again confirmed.

152-mm howitzers were reported for the first time (mostly field howitzers and, in one case, gun howitzers). These guns were observed with the 9th Tank Div, 9th Gds Tank Div, 10th Gds Tank Div and 12th Gds Tank Div during the summer and fall. The number of weapons observed tends to indicate that one battalion with 152-mm howitzers belongs to the artillery regiment of a tank division. Although, swording to an unconfirmed report, 36x152-mm gun howitzers were observed with the 10th Gds Tank Div (Oct 1957), it is not yet possible to draw the conclusion that all tank divisions include 2 battalions with 152-mm howitzers. There is, however, the possibility that such an organization is aimed at but has not yet been introduced by all civisions.

It can furthermore be assumed that the artillery regiment of a tank division included a battalion with 85/100-mm field guns and a battalion with 122-mm field howitzers. Since more than 18x122-mm field howitzers (24 with 9th Tank Div and 36 with 19th Gds Mecz Div(Tk)) were observed with two divisions, there is also the possibility that 2 22-mm field howitzer battalions are in existence, possibly only for a transitional period.

Summarizing, it can be said that there are two possibilities for the organisation of an artillery regiment of  $\kappa$  tank division, namely:

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- 1 battalion with 85/100-mm guns
- 1 battalion with 122-mm field howitzers
- 2 battalions with 152-mm howitzers

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- 1 battalion with 85/100-mm guns
- 2 battalions with 122-mm field howitzers
- 1 battalion with 152-mm howitzers.

It can also be assumed that several tank divisions are not or not yes equipped with 152-ram howitzers.

The organization of the artillery of mechanized divisions into a regiment within the framework of the reorganization could also be confirmed. Since the spring of 1957, only one arty regiment has been reported in post areas of former mechanized divisions and the deactivation of each one arty regiment in connection with the reorganization of motorized rifle divisions had been definitely determined.

As to the organization of arty regiments of mechanized divisions, definite information has been received on 3 battalions. It is, however, assumed that there is also a fourth battalion which may be equipped with 152-ma howitsers, Such guns have, however, been observed only with the 1st Megz Div and 39th Gds Mtz Rifle Div (Mess), while pertinent indications are available for the 6th and 7th Gds Mecz Divs. When the arty regiments of these divisions returned by road to Eberswalds and/or the Fuerstanwalds-Frankfurt area from maneuvers in the Wittstock area, reported a column of 3x6x122-mm field Several howitzers, 3x6x160-um morters and 3x6x85-um guns. There was no fourth battalion. If in existence, it was presumably shipped by rail i.e. is equipped with track laying vehicles which, however, have so far been observed only with guns with a caliber of and above 152 mm. Arty regiments of mechanized divisions are assumed to be organized as follows:

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- 1 bettalion with 85/100-mm guns
- 1 bettalion with 160-mm mortura
- 1 battalion with 122-mm field howitzers
- 1 battalion with 152 mm howitzers

# (2) Army Artillery

Available information does not allow to draw definite conclusions on the organization of the arty brigades of the armies. The following details have been reported:

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The u/i Arty Brig/First Gds Mecz Army (Tank) with its field howitzer elements left Koenigsbrueck for an undetermined destination in late April 1957. In April, gun howitzers arrived in Meissen where elements with guns had already been stationed. While exclusively gun howitzers had at first been observed in Meissen, 100-mm guns were again observed there after November 1957.

After the 2d Arty Brig/Second Gds Mecz Army (Tank) had turned in 152-mm field howitzers and 100-mm guns and, at the same time, had received 152-mm gun howitzers, only the latter have been observed with the unit. However, there are also indications that the equipment of this brigade included 122-mm field guns.

No information has been received on the 199th Arty Brig/ Third Gds Mecz Army which had left its quarters in Justerbog in May 1957.

The 71st Arty Brig/Fourth Gds Mecs Army was confirmed with its previous equipment (152-mm field howitzers and 100-mm guns) in Bernau.

No new and only little information has been received on the 44th Arty Brig/Third Shock Army (Mecz) Altengrabow and the 43d Arty Brig/Eighth Gds Army (Mecz), respectively. The 304th Arty Brig Burg and the 308th Arty Brig Gera could be confirmed. It could not yet be determined if the former army arty brigades had been dissolved and, subsequently, replaced by the two remaining former corps arty brigades (304th and 308th) or whether two arty brigades are in existence with each former rifle army. The present whereabouts of the AT brigades of the former rifle armies could not be determined either.

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the bulk of the 20th AT Brig/Third Shock Army (Macz), presumably in the strength of 2 regiments, is still stationed in Stendal/Borstel. Shipments to Fuerstenselds on 21/22 April apparently involved only one regiment which could be confirmed there until recently. The subordination of this regiment is still undetermined.

Insufficient information has been received on the 38th AT Brig/Eighth Gds Army (Mecz) Altenburg. Analogue to the 20th AT Brig/Third Shock Army (Mecz), at least elements of the former may be still in existence and stationed in Altenburg. It could not yet be determined that an AT unit

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belonged also to the Third Gds Mecz Army, although there is reason to believe that each mechanised army includes an AT unit which may (still?) be of greater strength with the two former rifle armies located near the zonal border than with the two other mechanized armies.

### (3) RL Units

In addition to the 25th Gds RL Brig/6th Arty Div of GSFG, each army is equipped with an RL regiment and each division with an RL battalion.

1 to can be assumed that the army RL regiments are equipped mainly with BM-24s, in addition to M-31s and M-13s. In the summer of 1957, 200-mm (?) RLs (4 banks) were observed at three posts (Doeberits, Brandenburg and Saalfald) and, in September 1957, presumably 12 RLs (6 banks), probably to be used as AA weapons, were observed in Doeberits.

The RL battalions of the tank divisions were predominantly equipped with BM-24s in addition to M-13s, whereas RL battalions of mechanized divisions are equipped mainly with RLs of type M-13.

# (4) GSFG Artillery

Artillery units directly subordinate to GSFG did not undergo any changes with regard to organization and equipment.

#### c. Army Engineers

While each one army engineer regiment has been carried with the previous mechanized armies, no such observations could be made with regard to the two former rifle armies. Nor was there any indication of an enlargement to regiments of army engineer battalians observed with the rifle armies prior to the reorganization. In addition to the known engineer units, amphibious units have been observed in three army areas, namely in Beeskow (Fourth Gds Mecs Army): 24 full-track amphibious

vehicles and 20 6x6 amphibious trucks; in Magdeburg (Third Shock Army (Megx)): 15-20 full-

(Third Shock Army (Meex)): 15-20 full-track amphibious vehicles and possibly also 6x6

amphibious trucks;

in Gera (Eighth Gds Army (Macz)): 24 full-track amphibious vehicles and several amphibious

amphibious vehicles and several amphibious trucks:

in Sperenberg (Third Gds Mecs Army):

the area of the Amph Engr Regt/GSFG
tend to indicate subordination

to Third Gds Meez Army.

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It appears possible that now each mechanized army is equipped with a new amphibious unit which may have been activated from previous amphibious engineer regiments of GSFG (Eberswelde, Sperenberg).

No information has as yet been received on strength and equipment of these amphibious units.

# 3. Meapons and Equipment Observed in the GDR for the first Time

#### a. Tanks and SP Guns

- (1) T-10: new heavy tank, similar to JS=3, 122-mm gun with smoke funnel and muzzle brake, presumably rather heavy AA weapon on turret, presumably 7 bogic wheels and 3 track-supporting rollers, weight approximately 51 tons. So far observed in Vogelsang, Meiningen and Justirbog (?).
- (2) Bridge-carrying tank on T-34 chassis (T-34/Br), observed in Magdeburg.
- (3) Command and/or radio tank, without turret, but with commander's cupols and machine gun in front, with turret but without gun (T-34/F, T-54/F, JSU-122/F), observed in Bernau, Leipzig and Jena.
- (4) Amphibious tank without turret (PT-76/F), possibly not only command or radio tank but also personnel carrier, observed in Bernau and Zeitz.

# b. Armored Vehicles

- (1) BTR-152s, increasingly equipped with device for air pressure regulation in tires.
- (2) BTR-152s with high side-boards (BTR-152/F) used as command and signal vehicle.

#### c. Modern Artillery Pieces

100-mm field guns/AT M-55 )
122-mm field guns M-55 ) so far only with arty trigades
152-mm howitzers M-55 )

#### d. Rocket Launchers

200-mm (?) RLs (& banks), range up to appr 20,000 meters, so far observed in Doeberits, Brandenburg and Sazlfeld. Presumably earmarked for RL regiments of tenk and mechanized armics.

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#### e. AAA

- (1) 57-mm twin-barreled AA guns on track-laying chassis (SU-57/2); chassis similar to T-54 but only 4 bogic wheels. Crew in large but not completely closed turret. Observed in Krampaitz, Weimar, and Hillersleben (probably also in Zerbst) and indications in area of First Gds Mecs Army (Tank). For the time being, presumably for tank divisions exclusively.
- (2) AAA (?) RLs (6 rounds), presumably on YAAS-214 chassis, first shown at Moscow Parade in November 1957. Possibly 18 such weapons in Doeberitz.

#### f. Prime Movers

- (1) PrM-57 (ZgKw), armored medium prime mover with 4 bogie wheels and 2 track-supporting rollers, low somewhat detached idler wheel in rear, machine gun in front ball mount, mainly for M-55 100-mm field guns of AT and arty brigades. Observed in Rostock, Schwerin, Justerbog (?).
- (2) PrM-54, prime mover with 8 small bogie wheels arranged in pairs and 4 track-supporting rollers. Mainly observed with heavy AA guns.

#### 4. Final Conclusions

The new phase of reorganization, which started with GSFG units in the spring of 1957, is believed to have been generally completed approximately at the beginning of the maneuvers in late July/early August. Experiences gained during the fall maneuvers may result in additional organizational changes which, presumably on a smaller scale, may be expected also for the near future. The main results of the reorganization are

- a. restriction to 2 types of divisions;
- b. activation of tank armies;
- c. creation of units as similar as possible which permit an exchange among armies or divisions and thus a flexible conduct of battle;
- d. Increase of fire power and mobility.

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## II. Training

Euring the period under review, activities of Soviet army units concentrated on training. While, as a result of the reorganization, training, particularly of artillery and tank units, was affected during the spring and early summer, unusually intensive training was conducted during the summer and fall. Thus, the units caught up with the normal training schedule quickly. The large number of exercises at divisional level and above indicates that, in general, the reorganization and reequipment was completed in summer and newly organized units and forces were tried out and exemined in practice.

Training was marked by exercises at reinforced regimental level, divisional level and by maneuvers which involved elements of several divisions, by retransfer of units which had moved to summer camps in the spring, as well as by training in firing of tank, artillery and AAA units at the known firing ranges. After late October, training was conducted predominantly at and near posts and has been affected by the personnel exchange which started at that time.

## 1. Exercises at Regimental Level

Between about 10 July and late October, exercises of combined weapons, mostly at reinforced regimental level, were conducted near posts and at troop training grounds with varying frequency.

This training, which continued also during the maneuver period, was meant as compensation for the fact that troops were transferred to summer camps only on a small scale.

#### 2. Exercises (Maneuvers) at Divisional Level and above

With regard to type and execution of operations, the 1957 fall maneuvers resembled those of 1956, when also three combined maneuvers of elements of various armies were held. In 1957, entire NVA units were for the first time observed participating in Soviet maneuvers.

At least 10 major exercises at divisional level or above which, in 9 cases, involved air force units were held between 25 July and 10 October 1957. All information available on the maneuvers was compiled and forwarded in a special report.

#### 3. Return from Summer Camps

The troops which had transferred to summer camps in the spring, returned to their posts between mid-September and mid-October, with some units immediately returning to their winter quarters and others only after participation in maneuvers.

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The following units were determined to have returned:

6th Arty Div/GSFG
34th Arty Div/GSFG
8th Gds Mecs Div
11th Gds Tank Div (elms)
57th Gds Mts Rifle Div
(Mecs) (elms)
21st Gds Mecs Div
20th Gds Mecz Div
(Tank) (elms)

beginning mid-Sep from Altengrabow; beginning late Sep beginning early Sep from Koenigsbrueck; beginning late Sep from Ohrdruf;

beginning mid-Sep from Loses; beginning early Oct from Ohrcruf;

In late October, the divisions of which only elements had been rotated to training grounds, were also stationed at their posts with the bulk of their units.

#### 4. Firing Details

#### e. Tank Units

Prior to mid-July, tank units transferred to firing ranges only in a few instances because of the reorganization. During the period under review, training in firing of tank units was intensified. It can therefore be assumed that the units caught up with their training schedula during the summer. Training in firing continued also during the maneuver period; it was generally completed in October. Only individual firing details were observed at that time.

#### b. Artillery Units

Training in firing of artillery units continued. In addition to units of the two artillery divisions which had been transferred to the Altengrabow summer camp, artillery firing details were continually rotated to the known artillery firing ranges. This training activity got less intensive in October and almost discontinued in November.

#### c. AAA Units

Training in firing of AAA units was predominantly conducted at the Wustrow and Justerbog firing ranges as previously, Altengrabow was also utilized. Practicing units stayed at the training grounds between 4 and 6 weeks as usually. Competitive firing practices were held frequently. Firing practices decreased during the month of September, only occasional AAA units were observed at the firing ranges in October and practices were discontinued altogether in November.

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#### 5. Engineer Training

Intensive training of engineer units at water training sites, which has been observed throughout several years, continued until October. In spite of intensive participation of engineer elements in the maneuvers, special training of engineer units not involved in the exercises continued. It almost terminated in the month of November.

## III. Personnel Exchange

The assembling of shuttle trains for the 1957 personnel exchange program started on 10 September, with first trains made available in the Berlin area, followed by trains from other RBD districts, the total of which amounted to approximately 1,400 transitworthy converted boxcers sufficient for the assembly of approximately 25 shuttle trains. The beginning of the shuttle-train movement was presumably scheduled for late September, was allegedly pretponed to 15 October, and actually started only on 31 October, except for a few personnel shipments in and after September which preceded the exchange program. The delay of the exchange program had the following reasons:

The influenza epidemicin October not only affected troops at numerous posts but also GDR Railroads personnel which led to considerable transportation difficulties in the GDR.

Fall exercises terminated only in mid-October in several army areas so that trained personnel had to be discharged later than in prededing years. The political situation in October (anniversary of Hungarian revolution) may also have accounted for the delayed beginning of the 1957/1958 personnel exchange.

Between 31 October and 30 November, a total of 70 personnel shuttle trains was observed crossing the border in both directions. These 70 shipments can be broken down as follows:

from the GDR to the USSR: 33 loaded

6 partly leaded

9 empty trains

from the USSR to the GDR: 20 loaded

2 partly loaded trains.

As in preceding years, arrival and departure of troops is handled via distribution points in each army eres some of which, however, are located in other installations than previously. The following installations are assumed to serve as distribution centers:

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Koenigsbrueck-Altes Lager Camp Schweinrich (Dranse rr station) Juetorbog-Altes Lager Frankfurt/Oder-Eichhorn Kaserne (?) and/or Bernau-Army Clothing Depot I Magdeburg-Herrenkrug Kaserne Weimar-Tannenberg Kaserne for First Gds Mecs Army (Tank)
for Second Gds Mecs Army (Tank)

for Third Gds Meoz Army for Fourth Gds Meoz Army

for Third Shock Army (Mecz) for Eighth Gds Army (Mecz)

Exchange of dischargess and recruits between posts and distribution centers is accomplished by truck or in small rail shipments, in many cases with recruits being dropped and dischargess being picked up at the same time.

The number of personnel shipments observed crossing the border in both directions prior to late November, roughly agrees with the scale of the personnel exchange during the first & weeks in 1956. With a view to the fact that the exchange program started approximately 3 weeks later than usual, and on the basis of the assumption that the exchange will continue on the same scale, it is believed that it will terminate only about mid-January.

#### IV. Logistics

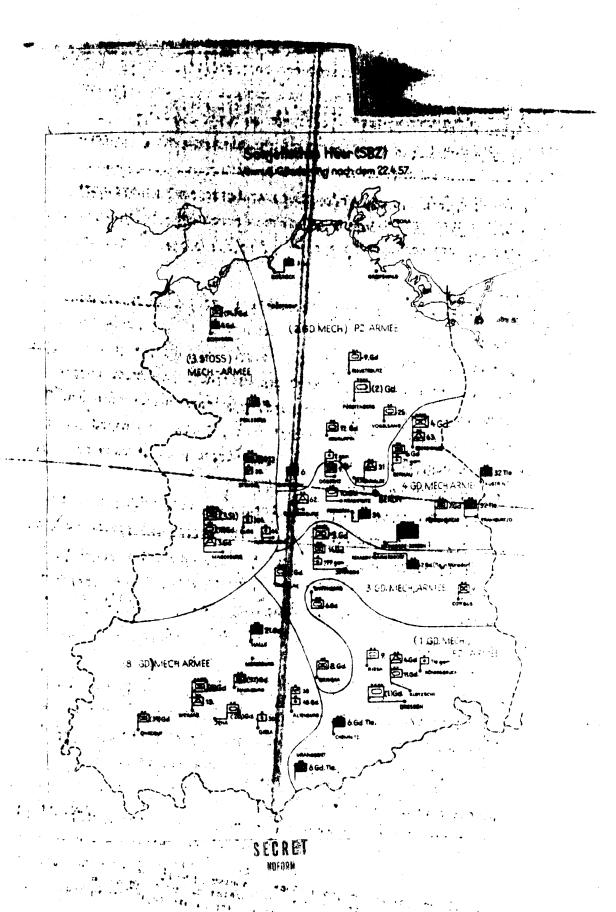
Nothing unusual was observed with regard to supply traffic from the USSR to the GDR until late November. Incoming shipments with heavy weapons and equipment were insignificant. Worth noting is the arrival of some 500 railroad cars with loads exceeding standard measurements after mid-May, Occasional observations tend to indicate that the shipments involved prime movers and amphibious vehicles. Twin-barreled SU-57/2 AA guns and a small number of new heavy T-10 tanks were also observed.

# V. Evaluation

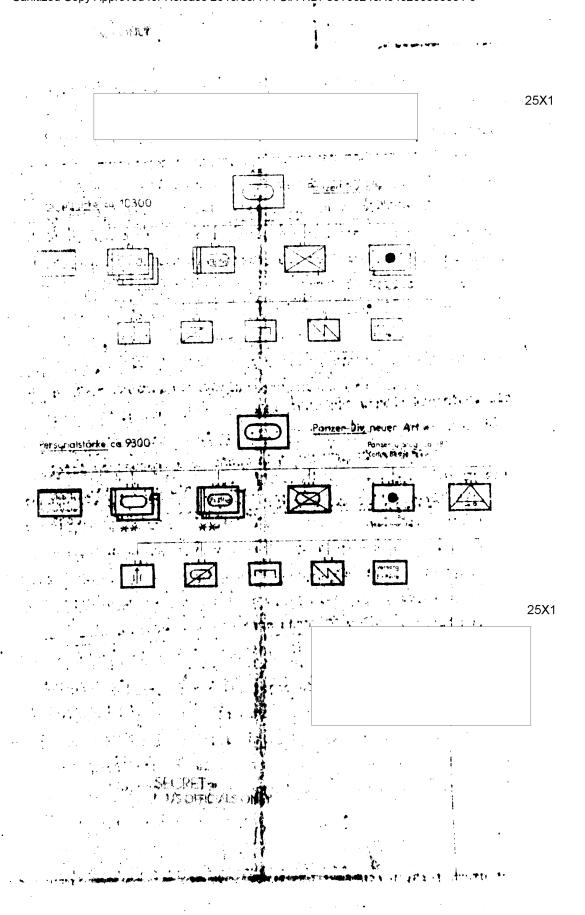
The phase of reorganization executed in 1957, as well as the arrival of additional new conventional weapons and equipment and the further coordination of command principles to modern warfare which could be noticed on occasion of the maneuvers improved fighting power, mobility and readiness for employment of GSFG forces. At present, the readiness for employment is affected by the low training level of the recruits, a comparative weakness which presumably will have been overcome by the spring of 1958.

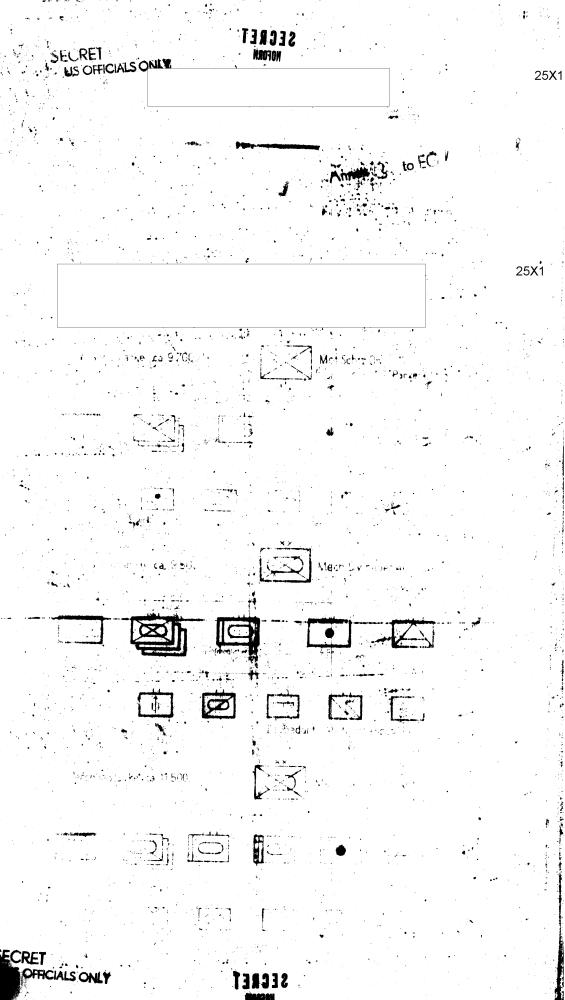
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Description of Attachments (referred to as Annexes in the report):	
Attachment 1: Present Organization of GSFG Forces Attachment 2: Organization of Tank Divisions Attachment 3: Organization of Mechanized Divisions	
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